



Blakely City Council Minutes

August 2, 2022, City Hall, 6:00 P.M.

I. Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge Of Allegiance

Let the record show that Mayor Travis Wimbush called the meeting to order. Mayor Travis Wimbush, Councilmember Margaret Davis, Councilmember Brad Clenney, Councilmember Al Hutchins and Councilmember Ray Jarrett were all present. Also present was the City Attorney Flin Coleman and the City Clerk Melinda Crook. After a moment of silence Billy Powell gave the invocation. The Mayor and Council led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Mayor's Spotlight

The Mayor announced that this month's Mayor spotlight was for Councilmember Brad Clenney. He spoke on Councilmember Clenney's participation at Vacation Bible School and the time he takes volunteering and working in the community.

III. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to enter into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Hutchins to enter back into regular session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present
No action was taken at this time

IV. Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to approve the minutes from the July 5th City Council meeting and Work Session. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

V. Citizens And Delegations

Meredith Whitehead

Meredith Whitehead came before the Mayor and Council regarding property off of Redbud. She spoke on conditions of homes in this area and of having a need for newer, energy efficient homes. She went on to speak of the condition of other homes around the City. She spoke on how grateful the citizens who received the CDBG homes were to have a better more energy efficient home to live in now. She informed the Mayor and Council that the person she was dealing with, Curtis Turner out of Leesburg, wants to bring better homes to Blakely. She also informed the Mayor and Council that there would not be a need for any zone changes in this project at the present time. Mr. Turner addressed the Mayor and Council. He stated that he had met Meredith when looking for land in this area. He stated that these homes would not be section 8. He then spoke to the Mayor and Council about the possibility of some in-kind work

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Blakely City Council Minutes

from the City to help keep the cost down and more affordable for the citizens. The Mayor stated that they would need to meet again to go over specifics of an in-kind request. Mr. Turner stated that these homes, 65 to 70 would not be rent to own or lease to own. Councilmember Clenney questioned what the cost of one of these homes may be. Mr. Turner responded saying that they would be 1200 sq. ft. 3 bedroom/1 ½ to 2 baths for around \$165,000 - \$170,000 and that if some townhouses were possible, they would be 1000 sq. ft around \$135,000. Mr. Turner also stated that the company he represents would be assisting in financing.

VI. Administrative Committee

Will Caudill – Updates

Chief Will Caudill gave his monthly report stating that there had been a total of 735 calls for service for July.

Matt Hromalik - E911 Updates

Director Matt Hromalik gave his month report stating that there had been a total of 4,625 calls for the month of July.

VII. City Attorney's Report

MEAG Plant Vogle

Matthew Chancey from MEAG gave a brief explanation of the what was being requested of the Mayor and Council. He stated that they needed to either vote to tender or not to tender for three projects being, SPV (M), SPV (J) and SPV (P). He stated that these needed to be in three separate votes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to not tender on SPV (M). The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Davis to not tender on SPV (J). The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

A motion was made by Councilmember Clenney and seconded by Councilmember Jarrett to not tender on SPV (P). The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Resolution accepting Harris property on College Street

The City Attorney Flin Coleman gave a brief history on this piece of property and ownership. He stated that the house is in a state of disrepair and had not been fully paid off which caused this to linger in court. He then stated that presently the house is paid off and the owner now wished to donate the property to the City. He informed the Mayor and Council that a quick claim had been drafted on the property and that the City just needed to vote whether to accept the donation or not accept the donation of the property. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to accept the Harris property on College St. as

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a donation to the City. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present. The Mayor then asked the Council to go see the property and to come up with a plan of action

VIII. City Clerk's Report

The City Clerk Melinda Crook presented the Mayor and Council with monthly financial reports as of the end of June. She then gave a power point presentation of the financials to the public. Ms. Crook asked the Mayor and Council to for approval to move the current budget figures for the Sanitation Dept. into the General Fund. She stated that this was to reclassified the Sanitation budget under the same group as the Department Head, Billy Powell. Ms. Crook stated that this reclassification was for the revenues and expenditures/ The Mayor informed the Council that the budget numbers where not changing just being reclassified to be under the correct Department Head and correct fund. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve moving the Sanitation budget expenses and revenues to the General Fund under the new Department Head, Billy Powell. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

IX. New Items Proposed by Mayor and City Council

The Mayor reminded the Council of the Town Hall meeting at the Senior Center regarding the equipment and walking trail. He stated that the meeting was at 5:00pm Thursday.

The Mayor updated the Council on the Civic Center renovation. He stated that the numbers for the sheetrock and ceiling raising will be coming soon to be presented to the Council. He stated that Lane Davis has been doing tear out work and some other things at the center to help save on the cost.

The Mayor informed the Council that he had put out a reminder of COVID protocols due to increases in cases. He stated that masks were still optional

The Mayor asked the Council to consider repaving Murdock St. as part of the repaving project that was being done. He stated that the additional cost would be \$22,320 which could be paid out of the TSPLOST funds. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the additional paving of Murdock St in the amount of \$22,320. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present.

The Mayor spoke to the Council about an ad in the EC News as sponsorship for the Early County Bobcats. He presented the Council with the cost per the type of ad that they chose. A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to approve the purchase of a ½ page color ad in the amount of \$521.68. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present



Blakely City Council Minutes

The Mayor stated that quotes will be gotten for a car charging station to be taken up at the next month's Council meeting. He also requested the Council to review the renewal proposal from Waste Management to be addressed at the next month's Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jarrett and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to end the Emergency Declaration on September 5, 2022. The motion carried unanimously by Councilmembers present

Councilmember Hutchins and Councilmember Jarrett commended Chief Caudill and the Police Department for how good of a job that they do and thanked them for all that they do.

X. Public Comments

Charlie Sol thanked Meredith for what they are trying to do to bring in new homes. He also spoke on wanting to have a better working relationship between the City and the County officials. He suggested possibly a Councilmember and Commissioner have lunch once a week. He spoke on the possibility of town hall meetings with the citizens.

Brother Jason thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the food bank. He then spoke on the housing project.

Celia Bostwick spoke on the housing issues and stated that she was glad the Mayor and Council is considering the housing project presented.

The Mayor informed the Council that the City had received confirmation that the City is eligible for the purchase of two Police cars, a grabber truck and a garbage truck through the USDA grant/loan program.

XI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Hutchins and seconded by Councilmember Clenney to adjourn the August 2nd City Council meeting.

Travis Wimbush, Mayor